

for the Cleveland suburb. Prior to working for LakewoodAlive Mary Anne was Manager of Marketing and Public Relations at Cleveland Sight Center, a nonprofit organization that works to enhance the lives of blind persons.

In addition to her career, Ms. Crampton is a dedicated and involved member of the Northeast Ohio community. Mary Anne is a member on the board of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation where she serves on the governance committee. She is a board member of the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce where she serves on the economic development committee, and she chairs the board resources committee for the Beck Center for Cultural Arts.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Mary Anne Crampton has proven herself a very valuable citizen of the Cleveland community and surrounding areas. Her exceptional passion to better the lives of the members of her community is truly a blessing. Mary Anne's vision and hard work make her one of Northeast Ohio's most remarkable citizens.

#### WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CONSERVATION SEMIPOSTAL STAMP ACT OF 2011

### HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced H.R. 2236, the Wildlife Refuge System Conservation Semipostal Stamp Act of 2011. This bill would let Americans donate to the upkeep of the National Wildlife Refuge System by purchasing semipostal stamps. There are 553 refuge sites in or nearby almost every congressional district in this country; and those refuges need financial help.

Last month, Chairman FLEMING of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs held an oversight hearing on the National Wildlife Refuge System's finances. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the System, testified that it has \$3.3 billion in unmet operational needs and deferred maintenance projects.

A semipostal stamp could help—at least in some small way—to pull the Refuge System out of that deep hole. Semipostals are postage stamps sold at a premium, with the difference going to fund a cause of national interest. The stamps have proven successful. The Breast Cancer Research Stamp has raised over \$71 million since it was authorized in 1998.

Now, in times of budget constraint, Americans are looking for ways to revitalize the wildlife refuges in their backyards without increasing the demand on taxpayers. The semipostal stamp authorized in H.R. 2236 would provide Americans a way to support their 553 refuge sites without increasing taxes or taking funds from other important government services.

The National Wildlife Refuge System was created by President Theodore Roosevelt and today it is the world's premier system of public lands and waters set aside to conserve fish, wildlife and plants. In my district, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Volcanic Unit and the

Mariana Trench Unit of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument are parts of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Volcanic Unit is an arc of undersea mud volcanoes and thermal vents where exotic animals thrive in some of the harshest conditions imaginable. This is an area of cutting-edge scientific scrutiny, and awakens dreams of deep-sea exploration and discovery in us all.

In almost every state and territory wildlife refuges are similarly important. They provide recreational opportunities. By exposing our young people to the natural world, refuges inspire the next generation of scientists and researchers. And the wildlife refuges are economic assets. Every year, the Refuge System attracts 44 million tourists, generating \$1.7 billion in sales and sustaining 27,000 jobs.

Despite the value of the National Wildlife Refuge System, it remains drastically underfunded—unable to keep up with basic operations and maintenance costs. My bill would help alleviate that problem. H.R. 2236 brings a fresh source of income to the National Wildlife Refuge System without drawing on taxpayers or increasing the national debt. The bill gives Americans the choice to contribute to a program deeply important to our Nation and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2236.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL HAWKINS

### HON. ERIK PAULSEN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a true leader from my home State of Minnesota, William A. Hawkins. Bill has recently retired as Chairman and CEO of Medtronic, the world's leading medical technology company. He has been an insightful leader and his legacy includes the launch of important new technologies, major investments in quality and innovation, and the successful navigation through an increasingly challenging environment.

Bill's years at Medtronic have been filled with competition and innovation—serving with unwavering commitment to global growth, encouraging and acquiring technology, and growing the ability to meet patient needs in emerging markets. Under his guidance, Medtronic became a chronic disease management company and not just a medical technology company.

As Co-Chair of the Medical Technology Caucus, I am a major proponent of advancing life-saving technologies for patients. I have worked with Bill for a number of years in support of the medical technology industry on many issues such as trade, tax, payment, regulatory and research policies. Minnesota is one of the top med-tech epi-centers in the country. It remains one of few industries in the U.S. that exports more products than it imports—approximately \$36 billion annually. Our work helps to ensure that the medical technology industry continues to play a major role in the positive economic growth of our State and Nation.

Bill has nearly 35 years of career experience in the medical device industry, serving in leadership positions at Novoste Corporation; American Home Products; Johnson & Johnson; Guidant Corporation; and Eli Lilly. He

began his medical technology career with Carolina Medical Electronics in 1977.

He joined Medtronic in 2002 as Senior Vice President and President of the company's Vascular business before serving as Corporate President and Chief Operating Officer. Bill Hawkins was named Chief Executive Officer of Medtronic in 2007 and assumed the additional role of Chairman in 2008.

In March of 2010 Bill received the Biomedical Engineering Society's Distinguished Achievement Award. This award is given to recognize those that have made great contributions to the field of biomedical engineering/bioengineering.

Bill is also committed to giving back to our community by serving on the Board of Visitors for the Duke University School of Engineering and the Board of Directors for the Guthrie Theater and the University of Minnesota Foundation.

I am pleased to join Bill's friends, family, and colleagues in congratulating him on his many accomplishments, and wish him well as he starts the next chapter in his life. His passion for advancing innovations will keep him taking broad and bold steps to make the world a better place.

Congratulations Bill Hawkins!

#### HONORING GEORGE ROBERT LUDWIG

### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 21, 2011*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize Lieutenant George Robert Ludwig for his heroic service to our country. Lieutenant Ludwig entered the Army Aviation Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1963 and served in Vietnam and Bien Hoa.

Lieutenant Ludwig was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism while participating in aerial flight. He first distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action while serving as an aircraft pilot in action at Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam from June 10, 1965 to June 14, 1965. When battle erupted on morning of June 1, 1965, he was flying his aircraft with the mission of providing radio relay and acting as an artillery observer. When word was received that the United States compound at Dong Xoai was under heavy attack by a regiment of Viet Cong, Lieutenant Ludwig, who was flying the only aircraft in the immediate area, unhesitatingly volunteered to act as forward air controller for United States fighter bombers en route to the area. During the five-day period following the Viet Cong attack, Lieutenant Ludwig flew numerous radio relay and artillery adjustment missions, successfully and accurately directing many air strikes in support of the besieged compound.

Lieutenant Ludwig also received twenty Air Medals, two Medals of Valor and was the only Army pilot in the Vietnam War to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross by the United States Air Force.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the residents of the 5th District of Texas, to thank Lieutenant Ludwig and his family for their service to this country. We are